

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 9-17, with the following rewritten paragraph.

Thermal imaging may be carried out with a laser or an array of lasers emitting modulated near infrared or infrared radiation in a wavelength region that is absorbed by the element. Infrared radiation, especially infrared radiation in the range of about 800 nm to about 1200 nm, is typically used for imaging a thermally imageable element. Imaging is conveniently carried out with a laser emitting at about 830 nm or at about 1056 nm. Suitable commercially available imaging devices include image setters such as ~~a Cree~~ the CREO® Trendsetter (CREO Corp., Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada) and a Gerber Crescent 42T (available from the Gerber Corporation). Preheating of the imageable element is not required.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 18-25, with the following rewritten paragraph.

A sample of each imageable element was imaged using an internal test pattern with ~~Cree~~ a CREO® Trendsetter (CREO, Burnaby, BC, Canada) thermal exposure device having laser diode array emitting at 830 nm with an imaging energy density of 300 mJ/cm². Each sample was heated in an oven at 130°C for 1 min and developed with water as described above. In each sample the exposed regions remained after development, leaving an accurate copy of the mask image. The sample from Example 1, for example, appeared to be at least 2-98% dots at 150 lines per inch.